

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Regarding the withdrawal of Claims 39-42, it is respectfully noted that the doctrine of election by original presentation is inapplicable to the withdrawn claims. Claims 39-42 were part of the subject application as originally filed for the U.S. national stage. Moreover, as a PCT national stage application, the instant application is subject to the PCT unity of invention standard as noted in the Response dated October 4, 2002. The withdrawal of Claims 39-42 is thus improper, and Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be restored to active status for examination.

In response to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, independent Claims 1, 7-14, and 29-34 have been amended to address various points of alleged indefiniteness. As to Claim 34, the location of the plurality of cells for input/output circuits is believed to be appropriately defined. As is evident from the first three paragraphs in the body of the claim, the plurality of cells are arranged in the peripheral circuit region of the

semiconductor substrate and include field effect transistors formed in the semiconductor region. As such, the location of the plurality of cells is sufficiently, although broadly, defined.

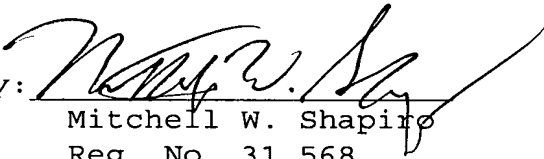
The withdrawal of the rejection from the Office Action dated December 3, 2004 is acknowledged with appreciation.

In view of the amendments presented herein, this application is believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully requested,

By: 
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January 27, 2006